

BRITISH DESTROY GERMAN VESSELS

Warships and Merchantmen Are Sunk in Conflict in the South Atlantic.

OTHER LOSSES REPORTED

Transport With Fifteen Hundred Marines Is Said to Have Been Sunk by Japanese—Kaiser Declared Recovering From Indisposition—German Advance in Poland Checked.

London, Dec. 12.—The Kaiser has suffered further losses at sea.

The sinking of the German converted cruiser Prinz Eitel Friedrich, with 1,500 marines aboard, by a Japanese warship in South American waters is reported from Valparaiso, Chile.

The German armored cruiser Friedrich Karl has been sunk in the Baltic by a mine, according to an official statement of the French ministry of marine at Paris today. The sinking of the Friedrich Karl is said to have occurred two weeks ago and most of the crew of 557 officers and men are said to have drowned.

The completion of the raid by an allied fleet on the German squadron off the Falkland islands in the south Atlantic a few days ago is reported in a dispatch from Montevideo, Uruguay, stating that the cruiser Dresden had taken refuge in the Argentine port of Santa Cruz in a badly battered condition. It is believed the Dresden will be interned there until after the war.

Nuernberg Fails to Escape.
London, Dec. 11.—The German cruiser Nuernberg which withdrew from the battle off the Falkland islands and attempted to make its escape with the cruiser Dresden while the British warships under Vice Admiral Sir Frederick Doveton Sturdee were destroying the cruisers Scharnhorst, Gneisenau and Leipzig, was hunted across the water by units of the British fleet and sunk the same day.

The main action lasted five hours. The Scharnhorst sank after three hours and the Gneisenau two hours later.

No loss of any British vessel is reported.

British Squadron Heavy.
London, Dec. 11.—A dispatch from Buenos Aires conveys the information that the British squadron includes nine big warships, notably the battle cruisers Lion and Indefatigable. The admiralty declines to verify or deny that these great ships are in foreign waters.

German Cruisers Sunk.
London, Dec. 10.—Information received in London indicates that the destruction of the German fleet in the South Atlantic, with the sinking of three cruisers, was preceded by the sinking of three German merchant vessels.

This information comes from Buenos Aires. The message said a division of warships aggregating five ironclads and one transport, on the morning of December 6 sank one of the German vessels in the roadstead of Pictou island. Two other steamers were sent to the bottom the same evening outside the harbor of Pictou, near Cape Sable.

Reports on Naval Battle.
The fate of the merchantmen is not mentioned in the statement given out by the British admiralty, which said that the German cruisers Scharnhorst, Gneisenau and Leipzig were sunk in a battle with the British fleet under Vice Admiral Sir Frederick Sturdee off the Falkland islands in the South Atlantic.

Admiral Von Spee Is Lost?
The official statement makes reference to some survivors rescued from the Gneisenau and the Leipzig, but no mention is made of any of the crew of the Scharnhorst, which was the flagship of the German admiral, being saved, and it is thus presumed that Count von Spee, his officers and men went down fighting.

As the Scharnhorst and Gneisenau each carried a complement of 765 men, the Leipzig 286, the Nuernberg 322, and the Dresden 261, the total German loss is estimated at not far from 2,000 men.

The British casualties were seven men killed and four wounded.

SAY KAISER IS IMPROVING

German Ruler, Who Has Been Seriously Indisposed, Reported to Be Much Better.

London, Dec. 12.—A dispatch to the Evening News from The Hague says: "According to information reaching here through private sources, Emperor William's condition today showed marked improvement. His temperature this morning was normal. His physicians allowed him to sit up for a few hours."

A message from Paris says the crown prince has been summoned to the bedside of the Kaiser, according to the Echo de Paris.

Illness Held Serious.
Rome, Dec. 12.—A report received from Berlin says no one is allowed to enter the sick room of the Kaiser and that all war news is withheld from the emperor, who is extremely nervous and restless. His illness, this message adds, is more serious than

the official bulletin would lead the people to believe.

CHECK ADVANCE, IS CLAIM

Russian Advances Are That Forward Movement of the Kaiser's Forces Has Been Stopped.

London, Dec. 12.—Of the five Austro-German columns which for some days appeared to be making steady progress in their invasion of Poland, three have suffered checks, according to tonight's official report from Russian headquarters.

The column which was making a downward stroke from Mlawa, on the East Prussian frontier, and which was reported in one dispatch from Petrograd today to be within fifteen miles of Warsaw, was repulsed after an energetic offensive, and under counter-attacks from the Russians was compelled to retire at some points.

The attacks of the main German column, which had its front on the line between Lodz and Lowicz, and which came down diagonally from Thorn, were delivered with great force, but, according to the Russian account, were repulsed with heavy losses to the invaders.

The Germans attach the utmost importance, it is said, to securing a decisive result in the east before the Russians are able to make their numbers, which military men believe must already be superior, so overwhelming that the better means of transportation possessed by the Germans will be discounted.

German Official Statement.
Berlin, Dec. 12.—The German army headquarters staff today issued the following communication:

"There is no change in the situation in the east of Mazurian lakes in East Prussia. Our attacks in northern Poland are progressing. No news is at hand from southern Poland."

The latest reports from the fighting zone around Lodz, according to information given out by the German official press bureau today, show that the resistance of the Russians in that region is by no means broken. The new Russian positions on Mlaga cut are only twelve or thirteen miles to the eastward of Lodz, which demonstrates, it is said, that much yet remains to be done before the Russians can be considered definitely defeated.

Allies Hold Trenches.

London, Dec. 12.—That the Germans are determined to cut through the allies' lines in West Flanders, if such a thing is possible, was demonstrated again today when the forces in the vicinity of Ypres made a violent and continued attack, only to be repulsed with heavy losses.

A dispatch from Berlin signed by the chief of the army administration insists that the Germans have made progress in Flanders, but there is no inkling of the point where this advance was made.

It also is asserted that French attacks in the forest of Le Preire and to the west of Ponta-Mousson were repulsed.

Attack Harbor of Dover.

Dover, England, Dec. 11.—The city of Dover was thrown into excitement today by the announcement that the Germans early this morning attempted a submarine attack on the harbor works and the fleet at anchor in the harbor.

A heavy rain and haze made searchlight work difficult. At six thirty o'clock the observers sighted what they believed to be a fleet of about six submarines several miles out in the channel.

The channel forts commenced firing in the direction of the supposed submarines and kept it up for almost half an hour. At the same time a torpedo boat destroyer flotilla put to sea, where it remained all day.

Sees Italy Joining War.

Rome, Dec. 12.—Signor Canepa, a member of the chamber, has announced that he desires to withdraw his request that the government join with the United States in a protest against Germany's violations of the agreements of The Hague conferences. Signor Canepa said significantly that he hoped action by Italy was imminent and hence a protest by this country at the present time would be useless.

Decline Christmas Truce.

Berlin, Dec. 12.—The proposal of Pope Benedict for a truce among the warring nations during the Christmas holidays is said by the official press bureau today to have been declined by Russia.

The German press bureau had announced that Germany was willing to agree to a Christmas truce, provided the other nations at war gave their assent.

Press Austrians Hard.

Rome, Dec. 12.—The Servian legation announces that the Austrians have been driven back on Shabatz and are being hard pressed by the Servians, who are attacking toward Belgrade. The Austrian prisoners of war in Servia number 300 officers and 30,000 men.

Roumania's Position.

Berlin, Dec. 12 (by wireless).—Word has arrived from Bucharest that Prime Minister Bratiano of Roumania has rejected the demand of the triple entente that Roumania attack Bulgaria if Bulgaria should prevent Greece from going to the assistance of Servia.

PLANS TO ENFORCE CANAL NEUTRALITY

GOETHALS ASKED DESTROYERS BECAUSE BELLIGERENTS DISREGARDED RULES.

WARSHIPS GET TOO ACTIVE

Two Destroyers Held Ready to Be Rushed to Canal—Will Put End to Practice of Violating Shipping Regulations.

Washington, D. C.—Destroyers with the Atlantic fleet at Hampton Roads are being held in readiness for immediate dispatch to Panama to aid Col. Goethals in protecting neutrality of the canal zone from violation by ships of the belligerent nations.

Panama Canal Zone.—Col. George W. Goethals, governor of the canal zone, was impelled to suggest to the government at Washington that two swift American torpedo-boat destroyers be stationed at the Panama Canal by the recent activity of belligerent ships and colliers in the vicinity of the Isthmus waterway.

The action of the Australian collier Mallina, which left Balboa without clearance papers, and the fact that this and other colliers have shown a disposition to disregard the canal zone shipping laws, actuated Col. Goethals to take a decisive measure to preserve the neutrality of the canal.

Nearly all the colliers which have gathered in canal waters arrived without health certificates, and in several instances the ships sailed without clearance papers.

It is presumed that the steamers met and coaled the Australian and English fleet, which concentrated recently in the vicinity of the Pearl Islands, 60 miles southeast of Panama City.

The United States torpedo-boat destroyers requested by the governor are expected to do patrol duty and to promptly overhaul any belligerent craft attempting to disregard the canal regulations.

Railroads Get Advance.

Washington.—From an official source knowledge of the situation is believed to be unquestionable it was learned that the last serious opposition to an increase in freight rates on the eastern railroads was removed and the interstate commerce commission formally voted to permit the 5 per cent advance.

U. S. Ignores Arizona Alien Law.

Washington.—The war department has refused the Arizona anti-alien employment to be applied to the military reservation and forts in Arizona. The decision is based on the fact that the state referred exclusive jurisdiction over the reservation to the United States.

Yellow Fever in Venezuela.

Washington.—Official admission of the existence at Caracas, Venezuela, of a case of yellow fever has been made, according to official advice to the state department. Reports had been prevalent that there were several cases there.

Cotton Committees to Meet.

Washington.—State committees appointed to aid in handling the \$125,000,000 cotton loan fund will meet in Washington to confer with the federal reserve board's cotton loan committee about details of the work assigned to them.

Two Cutters Authorized.

Washington.—Two new revenue cutters, one to cost \$350,000, for Pacific waters and the other to cost \$110,000 for anchorage patrol and ice breaking in New York harbor, were authorized in a bill favorably reported by the house commerce commission.

Village Sues Druggist for \$20,000.

Vandalia, Ill.—The village of Ramsey, in this county, has filed suit in the circuit court for \$20,000 against T. H. & L. Hayes, druggists, alleging the illegal sale of intoxicating liquors.

Skagway Has \$210,000 Fire.

Skagway, Alaska.—Fire destroyed the Moors Wharf, together with all the warehouse buildings, except the ore bunkers and chutes. The loss is estimated at \$210,000.

Australia Suspends Wheat Duty.

Melbourne, Australia, via London.—Owing to the shortage of the Australian wheat harvest, the government of the commonwealth has suspended the import duty on wheat.

Fireworks and Firewater Barred.

Ringling, Ok.—Having taken steps to prevent the celebration of Christmas here with fireworks, business men also have placed themselves on record against a celebration with firewater.

Poincare Visits Rheims Cathedral.

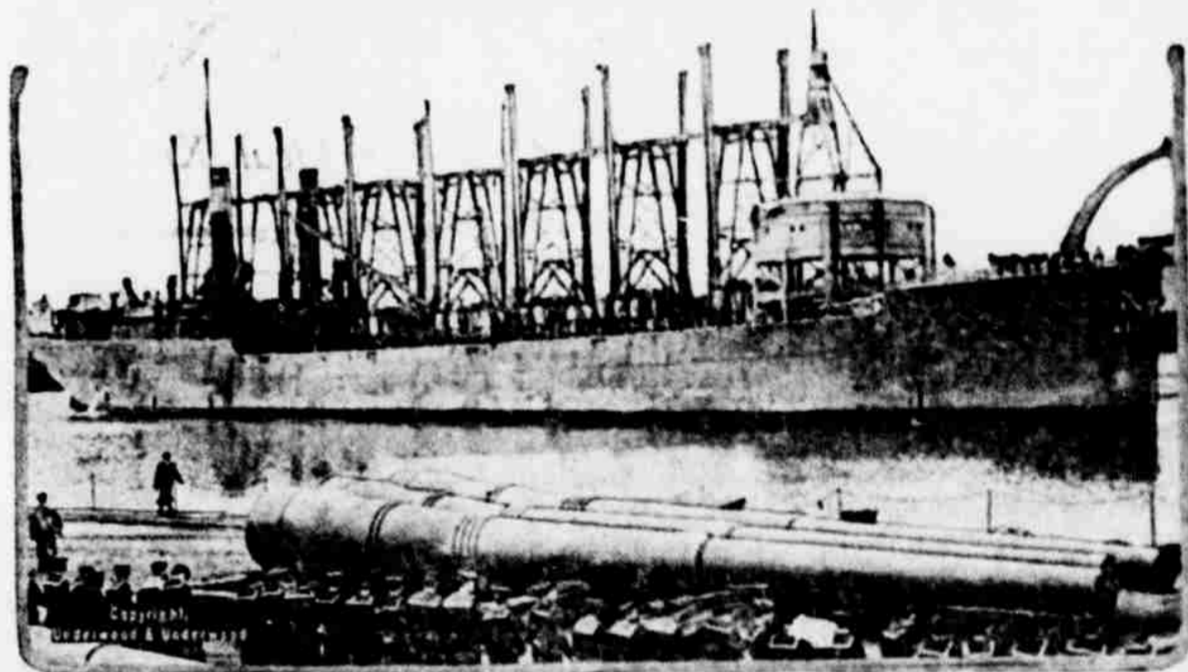
Paris.—President Poincare visited Rheims, which is still being bombarded by the Germans. After examining the cathedral the president made a donation of \$100 to the poor of the city.

KAISER WILHELM DIRECTING MOVEMENT OF TROOPS



Kaiser Wilhelm, with hands behind his back, is here photographed while directing the movement of a body of troops at the front. General von Falkenhayn, the minister of war, stands at the emperor's left.

SANTA CLAUS SHIP AT PLYMOUTH, ENGLAND



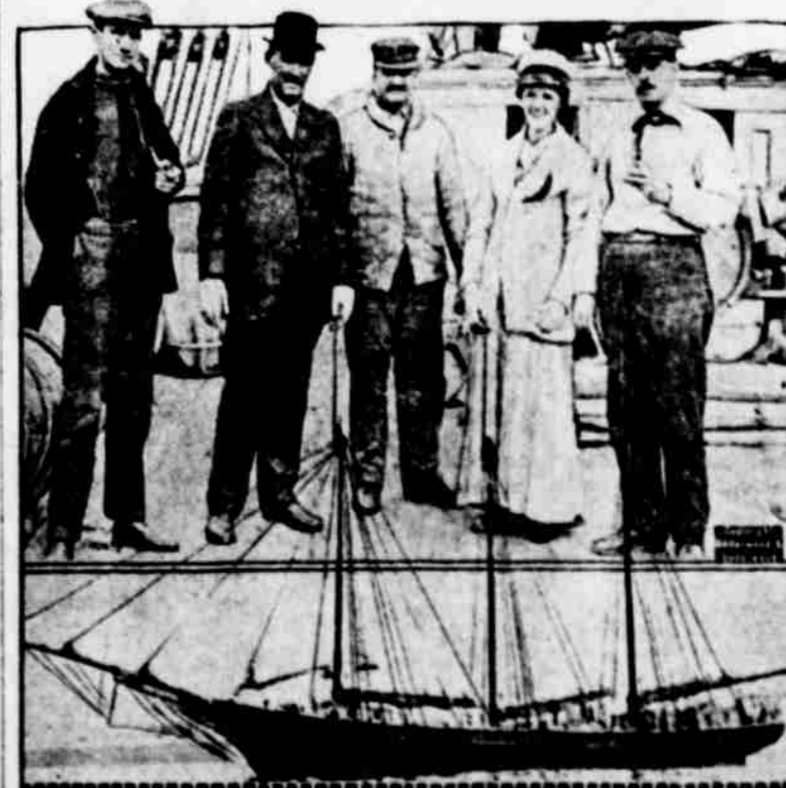
The American Santa Claus ship Jason, loaded with millions of gifts for the war orphans of Europe, as she appeared when she dropped anchor at Plymouth, England. In the immediate foreground are some of the immense guns which Great Britain is mounting on her battleships.

HOW THE DUTCH GUARD THEIR NEUTRALITY



Dutch troopers examining passports at the frontier of Holland.

OFF ON A REAL TRIP OF ADVENTURE



For the first time in a quarter of a century an American sailing vessel has cleared for a trading trip to the coast of Africa. It is the schooner Adeline T. Carleton, shown in the illustration, which left New York a few days ago with a miscellaneous cargo, which is to be exchanged for ivory, coffee, etc. She has three captains aboard. Above, left to right, are J. J. Moran, who is going to Liberia; Capt. D. S. Kent; Capt. F. E. Lowry, Mrs. Lowry, official photographer, and Capt. N. W. Brown.

DR. HENRY VAN DYKE



Dr. Henry Van Dyke, American minister to the Netherlands, photographed as he was about to call at the White House for the purpose of conferring with President Wilson as to war conditions and possible peace proposals. He has just sailed again for Holland.